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## From Past to Present—My Life at Iowa State

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### From Past to Present – My Life At Iowa State

“Why Iowa State?” many ask. A question that still rattles my brain to this day. It’s hard to say why I chose Iowa State as my college of choice. Was it the fact that I had friends coming here? Was it the fact that I had an opportunity to join a very prestigious Fraternity, or was it the fact that I had been offered a scholarship that was impossible to resist. For me to truly answer this question the answer would have to be all of the above.

From the beginning I had virtually no idea where I wanted to attend college. Living in Minnesota I had an idea that I wanted to move out of state, but no more than 4 hours away. I had toured several schools, Iowa State being one of them. My high school at the time held an event for seniors called on site day. On site day was an event where colleges from around the Midwest would send representatives to find students that were interested in their school. There was a list of requirements like ACT score and GPA and if those simple requirements were met you were accepted into the college on the spot. Of course Iowa State came to my high school and I met with them because I fulfilled all the requirements. I chatted with a representative for a while about the school and what it had to offer for my major of Kinesiology. As of then I was technically an Iowa State student, but not yet at heart, it was more of a back up plan. After a couple weeks passed I received a phone call from Delta Tau Delta Fraternity saying one of the members heard I was coming to Iowa

State and recommended my name. I continued to receive calls from other fraternities asking if I was interested and that's when the idea of becoming a Fraternity member started to intrigue me. At this point Iowa State was rising on my list of colleges and not long after is when the letter from the Carver Academy arrived. At first my mother and I were confused with the concept of this scholarship, we could not understand what it wanted, until it hit us. Seeing that I am from Minnesota the out of state tuition was way over the budget we had set for colleges. Being that the price was so much my chances of attending Iowa State were not looking so good. After receiving this letter, there was finally a chance for me to attend the school that I now look at as the best decision of my life. From that day on I was almost one hundred percent sure I wanted to attend Iowa State, the only major remaining factor was Delta Tau Delta.

The school year was approaching, but first was my orientation date. I contacted Delta Tau Delta and other Fraternities telling them I was interested in visiting their houses and what they had to offer. Making it to Iowa State for the third time I was automatically astounded by the scenery surrounding me. I remember walking down Ash Avenue in awe with the sizes of the Greek Fraternities and Sororities. After touring two different Fraternities I finally hit Delta Tau Delta. The disbelief that hit my eyes when visiting this house was like none other I had experienced at any other houses. The people I met immediately convinced me that this was the place I wanted to spend the next four possibly five years of my life.

My first semester at Iowa State was unbelievable. There are psychically not enough words to describe how much fun I encountered while at school. The opportunities that were presented to me have developed me as a person more than I could ever imagine. Such

events as Community Service and general involvement in the college are just a few that have changed my life. Being a member of the Carver Academy and a member of the Greek Community provided me with endless stories and activities. My first major contribution to the University was through the Greek Community during my first ever Homecoming. Most fraternities and Sororities participate in what is called Yell Like Hell that consists of a five-minute skit solely based on yelling. At first it I was not into the yelling and dancing aspect of Yell Like Hell, and it was not until we made it to first cuts that the real fun began. It was now a competition and that fact had finally hit not only me but the rest of the group also. Although we did not win Yell Like Hell or win Homecoming overall, it was one of the best experiences that brings you closer to people you meet as well as your brothers in the house. Throughout the semester there were numerous events and activities that brought me close to new friends and new brothers. When people talk about college the number one thing that crosses their mind are the people they meet. Friends are something no one can live without and for me to have a chance where I live in a house with sixty plus guys is unexplainable. When people talk about fraternities they think its just all parties and fun, but that's not true. I have spent the last year and half with the same guys everyday and there has been countless instances where I've experienced moments of complete brotherhood that not many others can say they understand. During my second semester at Iowa State I attended a conference in Lincoln, Nebraska called Delta Tau Delta Divisionals. This conference consists of forty plus Delta Tau Delta fraternities from across the country all coming together to strengthen to bond between us all. We spend three days in meetings and presentations comparing and creating new ideas to make Delta Tau Delta better as a whole.

There have also been a lot of tough times during my semesters here at Iowa State, but they will never outweigh the good times. My first semester here I struggled with grades a little bit because I wasn't used to the workload that college required. With help from the Carver Academy and Delta Tau Delta my semesters from here on out are only going to get better. The Carver Academy along with the UST classes we have to take have been a great asset to further understanding what I would call the differences between races, genders, and discrimination topics. This year alone with the Carver classes we have some of the most interesting discussions about Race and Ethnicity to go along with the readings. Some of my other classes have also discussed some of the same topics and overlapped with some of the work we have done. This has further helped me understand most of the articles we read. Although I never really said much in the UST classes I always had a very strong opinion. In the future I hope that the Carver Academy can help me express myself more when it comes to a lot of the subjects we discuss. An opinion is only wasted if there is no one else to hear it and its simple things like this that I believe my involvements can help me with. It is instances like these that not many can say they have experienced. This brotherhood will be with me forever, and so will all the friends and people that I have made the journey with. Delta Tau Delta is definitely the greatest experience that could have happen to me at Iowa State, and I will always be thankful for the opportunity that I have been given.

My journey here at Iowa State is almost halfway done and I could not be happier with my decisions so far. I often think back to what would have happened if I did not receive the letter from the Carver Academy. Where would I be today? What would be of my life? It tends to scare me a little to think that without this I could be living at home not

going to school or attending a small college somewhere in Minnesota doing exactly what I didn't want to do. There aren't many words that can explain how grateful I am for how this has all played out. My family is grateful of where I am heading these days, which motivates me to want to be someone in life. I am currently a sophomore studying Pre-Physical Therapy and now is a time in my life where I need to start making a name for myself. Everyone is told that life isn't easy, but it isn't till times like now when you begin fending for yourself that you really start believing it. This is my time to shine and the only people that I thank are the members of the Carver Academy and personal at Iowa State University.

There is still a lot to learn, but luckily there is still a lot of time. I have not looked back at any of the decisions I have made so far in college. Why look back when there is more ahead of you. I cannot wait to progress in life, but at the same time it is going to be very upsetting to have to leave the environment that I am currently in. There is no doubt about it that Iowa State, Delta Tau Delta, and the Carver Academy will always be apart of my life and I will always be thankful for them.